IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Palominas Elementary Failed to Perform Activities Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System

During July 2023 routine monitoring, our water system tested positive for total coliforms. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.

When this occurs, we are required to conduct repeat and ground water source monitoring and an assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. We failed to conduct the repeat and source monitoring within the required 24 hours from the lab notification, 07/20/2023. Sampling was accomplished on 08/29/2023. Routine disinfection had already occurred before those samples were taken. The distribution samples tested negative for total coliform; the well result was positive. While that may sound alarming, the means that the disinfection process worked as it should.

The assessment was also conducted outside of the prescribed timeline; it was conducted 10/25/2023. As stated above, the system had already been treated with EPA-approved disinfectant. There have been no further Total Coliform issues since.

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

What should I do?

- You did not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Failure to disinfect the system had the potential to cause continued distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

What is being done?

In July 2023, while the school was closed, there was no measurable residual disinfectant in the water system. Before the August 2023 samples were taken, routine disinfection procedures were back in place. No other corrective actions were deemed necessary.

For more information, please contact Cameron Strong at 254-405-2783.

> *Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being provided by Palominas Elementary. State Water System ID#: AZ04-02066.

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